

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested. Claims 17, 20, and 23 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, claims 1-14, 16, 18-19, and 21-22 are pending. Claims 1, 4, 11, 14, 19, and 22 have been amended. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added by the amendments to the claims.

Claims 6-8, 17, 20, and 23 stand objected to in the Office Action as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but have been indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 1, 11, and 14 stand objected to. In particular, the Office Action suggests that a definition and range of values for *m* be included in claims 1, 11, and 14. In response, Applicant respectfully submits that the claim term *m* is adequately defined by the specification and the surrounding context of claims 1, 11, and 14. Applicant further submits that, as discussed further below, given the amendments of claims 1, 11, and 14 to include subject matter indicated to be allowable, claims 1, 11, and 14 are now in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the objection to claims 1, 11, and 14 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 11, 14, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,792,052 to Johansson ("Johansson"). Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the features of dependent claim 17, which has been indicated by the Examiner to represent allowable subject matter. In addition, Applicant has amended independent claim 11 to include the features of dependent claim 20, which has been indicated by the Examiner to represent allowable subject matter. Furthermore, Applicant has amended independent claim 14 to include the features of dependent claim 23, which has been indicated by the Examiner to represent allowable subject matter. Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 11, and 14 distinguish over Johansson and respectfully requests that the rejection thereof be withdrawn. Additionally, claim 16 depends from and further restricts independent claim 1 in a patentable sense. Therefore, dependent claim 16 is also deemed to be distinguishable over Johansson.

Claims 4, 16, 18-19, and 21-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,373,507 to Skold (“Skold”).

Dependent claims 4 and 16 depend from and further restrict independent claim 1 in a patentable sense. Dependent claims 18-19 depend from and further restrict independent claim 11 in a patentable sense. Dependent claims 21-22 depend from and further restrict independent claim 14 in a patentable sense. Applicant respectfully submits that, for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to the rejection of independent claims 1, 11, and 14, respectively, dependent claims 4, 16, 18-19, and 21-22 distinguish over Skold and are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claims 4, 16, 18-19, and 21-22 is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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